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DECORATIVE TEXTILE FABRICS

DRAPERIES FOR SUMMER USE.

BY CLARA BUNCE.



ONE peculiar characteristic of summer hangings is lightness of weight. The best firms are showing such a multitude of sorts and of designs that there is almost endless variety to be found, and so long as the material is free from stuffiness it is considered correct.

Whether one has hundreds of dollars to expend or tens makes only the difference between choosing silk or cotton stuffs.

The colors, the variety, the beauty of pattern, are the same in all. Material at twenty-five cents a yard, if well selected, will give as good color effect as that at two dollars and a half. The difference shows in the wear and in the beauty of texture; but so far as general effect is concerned, the cheapest can safely be said to stand comparison with those of highest price.

A recent tour of investigation revealed some exceedingly interesting facts and discovered some fabrics not nearly so generally known as they deserve to be. Buyers are very apt to grow accustomed to a certain limited line of goods and to fall in discovering excellent things, because they are not apparent at a first glance.

Cotton and jute are most in use for low-priced goods; silk, and silk and cotton for those of greater value. Wool is not found at all, even as a filling or woof. The old notion that cotton could not be permanently dyed has been proven false again and again. Manufacturers now claim that it makes a better filling for fine class goods than either wool or linen, and that quite alone it is capable of doing excellent service. Certainly it is cooler by far than any fabric which contains even a minimum of wool and is eminently desirable for summer use.

Our own American factories are turning out charming things, and it is a pleasure to be able to assert on undoubted authority, that they rival any the world over. Messrs. Johnson and Faulkner, who are noted for the artistic value of their stocks, show a variety of cotton cloths and jute hangings that allows of

no criticism. They have on hand also numberless finer stuffs and many imported ones, but the products of their own factory are charming in the extreme.

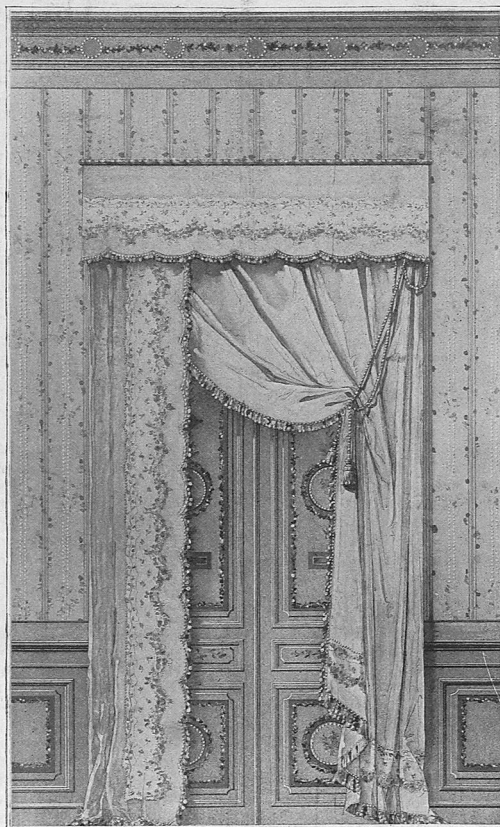
India satin and Bengal satin are two lovely fabrics hard to outdo at any price. The former is fifty inches wide and sells for six dollars a yard; the latter is narrower, thirty-two inches wide, and sells for two dollars and a half, but in surface and texture they are much alike. Both are soft and graceful; both have sufficient thickness to take good folds, and both are shown in all the wonderful colors and tints that are possible to-day.

The jute cloths are imported and are excellent both for portières and cushions, but are too heavy for the windows of summer use. The newest are toile de Guerin, toile de Flandres and gourgourand, any of which can be purchased for from fifty to ninety-five cents a yard, in fifty inch width. The two former are solid in color, and depend upon the peculiarity of weave for their effect; but the last is woven in stripes of Oriental coloring.

They are all excellent and all quite as durable as it is desirable they should be. Dealers refuse to warrant the color of any jute stuff, but long experience has proved that that only means they cannot assure buyers that the color will hold in face of a July sun. For all ordinary use they are absolutely fast and will endure long years of average usage without sign of harm. Even costly silk and finest wool will succumb to too severe treatment, and these jutes will endure all else.

Chester cotton and cretonne take and deserve the highest place among cottage and bedroom draperies and can be found in all colors and all designs. The latter is familiar to every one and only the new patterns and colors call for comment here; but the former deserves a much more general recognition than it has obtained, despite the favor with which it is received wherever it is known. It costs only fifteen and twenty cents a yard, yet is thoroughly good in color and artistic in design, and will launder without a vestige of change. For pillows and cushions it is perfect and for bed-room curtains can be made as charming as can be by lining either with itself or with fine silesia of a flat tone.

Thin silks, or Japanese and Chinese silks, as they are generally called, in spite of the fact that most of them are made in France or upon our own soil and owe their impulse only to the Orient, can be found in all grades and all prices. They are delightful, as all such soft, clinging things must always be, and



PORTIERE FOR BEDROOM DOORWAY IN PALE BLUE SILK WITH APPLIQUÉ BORDER, IN CHINTZ EFFECTS ON CREAM GROUND. BY GEORGES REMON.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

they make ideal pillow covers; but are hardly suitable for hangings, unless they serve as lining for some more stable stuff. Many firms in filling orders, where economy is no object, use cretonne or other cotton stuffs for the curtain proper and one of these silks for the lining. The effect is, of course, charming and the hanging takes folds such as nothing less pliable would yield.

The Lyons Silk and Tapestry Co., whose factory is in Paterson, despite the French name, show, through their agents, Messrs. W. G. Hitchcock & Co., a wonderful assortment of light weight silks and silk and cotton stuffs, but do not handle the charming cretonnes at all.

Among the very newest things shown, which combine cotton with silk, are brocades with both plain and armure grounds, and among pure cotton goods, Campania cloth.

The former are lovely in the truest sense and are especially designed for summer use. The colors are varied, including all that the dyer's art contains, and the designs are many. Which is better than another it would be difficult to say, but some one can be found to suit all rooms and at the price of one dollar and a half a yard, fifty inches wide. The Campania cloth has the merit of being double-faced and of requiring no lining at all. It is especially well suited to portières for this very reason, as it looks equally well from either side.

Armure silk, sunshing and stadacona, are three all silk stuffs and are fascinating in the extreme. They are designed for summer and are shown among warm weather goods. But rightly lined they might be used for hangings the whole year round, and they make couch and divan pillows that are perfect from June to December. They are all good, all charming, but the sunshing, which sells for three dollars a yard, fifty inches wide, seems to embody the very sunshine which its name suggests.

The present agents for Liberty & Co., Messrs. McHugh, have a variety of cotton stuffs that must win the most skeptical to appreciate that most suitable summer material. Plain Liberty chintz and Liberty gossamer are both tempting and dainty. They sell respectively for thirty-five and fifty cents a yard, and are shown in all artistic tints.

Persian prints sell for fifty cents a yard and Persian curtains for seventy-five cents a pair. Both are delightful, as Oriental things are sure to be, and both make delightful draperies as well as perfect pillows. They can be found in several colors and designs, but the India curtains are blue and white and show that peculiar

rich, deep tone familiar in the Japanese crepe and India China. Norris tapestry is double-faced and charming, as everything bearing that name is certain to be. It is fifty inches wide and one dollar and a half a yard, but as it requires no lining is not then more costly than some lower priced stuffs.

In fact, the range of choice is limited by time alone, for on every side something new and something charming springs into being. Money is no longer an essential determinant of selection. The lowest priced fabrics are as good in color and as charming in design as those of highest cost.

We have learned that cotton is capable of doing most excellent service and of being dyed in a multitude of colors which

only a few years ago we fancied belonged to silk and wool. As a consequence, available materials have increased both in beauty and variety; and, what is of even greater moment to the woman of the average purse, beauty has ceased to be synonymous with cost.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

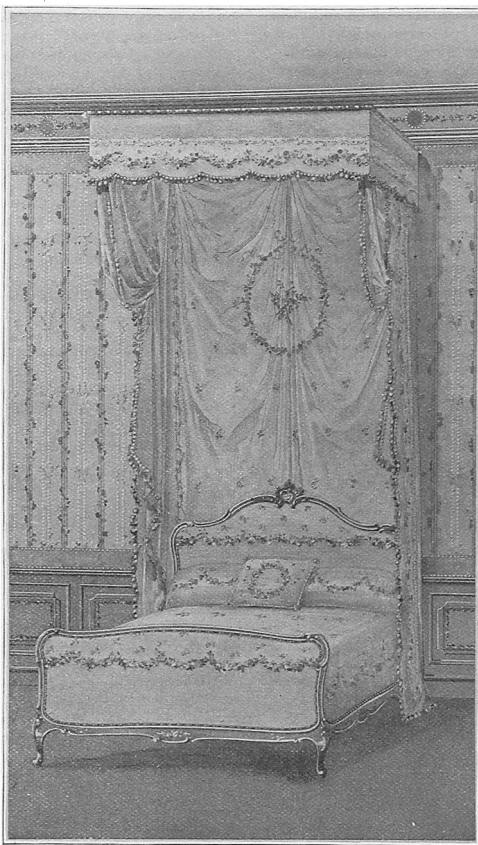
THE writing desk is a very important part of the furniture of a woman's own room, says *Harper's Bazar*. There are people who scramble along contentedly and somewhat clumsily with a small portfolio, part of a bureau drawer or an old atlas, in which to keep their correspondence, their paper and pens. Every one has been in houses where the request for writing material occasioned a search all over the house for the family inkstand and the family supply of paper. Such houses, however, do not in these days exist in cities, where very much of the commerce of life must needs be carried on by means of notes. A society woman's day begins with the reading of and replying to her many correspondents' missives.

A well furnished writing desk, with paper of different sizes, envelopes to match, sealing wax, stamps, and all the dainty accessories of the writing table, is something no woman can afford to do without. When possible, the residence, street and number, perhaps the town, or the name of the house (if it possesses a pretty individual name), should be stamped at the top of the page. If a monogram is preferred, or the family coat of arms and motto, these may be placed at the top of the page, and the address may be engraved on the outside of the envelope. "Pine Hurst," "Oak Ridge," "The Lowlands," etc., look very charming when engraved on the family note-paper. The family crest is more pretentious, but carries some weight.

The best paper for ordinary use is plain white, whether rough or smooth, thick or thin, depending on the taste of the writer, and depending also on the sort of pen she habitually uses. Few fountain pens glide easily over a rough surface and if these convenient implements are used, then the lady should select smooth paper to suit them. Nothing is more confusing than a pen which catches on the paper and refuses to make a mark. Ink should invariably be black. Pale writing is never in good taste; it is too trying to the eyesight of those who receive it, and seems to be

lacking in dignity. Tinted papers, ragged edges, and eccentricities of every kind are not admissible.

THE Japanese silk handkerchiefs that are so trifling in size make dainty sachets. The regulation white cotton stuffing to hold the sachet powder is cut to the side and in the shape of a square. The handkerchief is folded so the two corners diagonally opposite meet, leaving two sides to be fastened together, and a corner at the top and two points at each of the two lower corners for bow decorations. Sew these sides with baby ribbon, threaded through a wide-eye darning-needle, and the big stitches that result and the bows of the same ribbon give the decorative effect.



BED (STYLE LOUIS XV.), WITH DRAPERY IN PALE BLUE SILK, WITH APPLIQUÉ BORDER OF CHINTZ EFFECTS IN CREAM. LINED WITH CREAM SATINETTE. LOWER PART OF PANELS AT TOP AND BOTTOM OF BED IN PALE BLUE, WITH CHINTZ EFFECTS ON CREAM GROUND AT TOP. BY GEORGES REMON.